

## Claims

1. A process for the production of water-soluble or water-swellable cationic polymers by
- (i) free-radically initiated copolymerization of monomer mixtures in water comprising
- (a) from 1 to 99% by weight of a cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer,
- (b) from 1 to 99% by weight of a water-soluble monomer,
- (c) from 0 to 10% by weight of a bi- or polyfunctional, free-radically copolymerizable monomer, adjusting the amounts (a) to (c) in such a way that the resulting polymer has an overall positive charge,
- in the presence of 1 to 100% of the amount of a salt which is necessary to saturate the reaction medium with said salt and
- in the presence of 0,1 to 20 % by weight referred to the weight of the dispersion, of an amphoteric dispersant having an overall negative charge, and
- (ii) subsequent quaternization of the polymer if the monomer (a) employed is a non-quaternized monomer.
2. A process according to claim 1, where the amphoteric dispersant is a copolymer of a at least partly hydrolyzed vinylformamide units and acrylate units.
3. A process according to claim 1, where the amphoteric dispersant is a copolymer of dimethylaminoethylmethacrylamid units and acrylate units.
4. A dispersion comprising water-soluble or water-swellable cationic polymers obtained by a process according to claim 1.
5. The use of a dispersion according to claim 1 to 4 in water-treating, dewatering, water clarifications, papermaking, oil field, soil conditioning, mineral processing, hair and skin cosmetic, and biotechnological applications.